

SAQA PA Critique Guidelines

Critiques are important because:

- We don't create in a vacuum
- Helps us broaden our communication and listening skills
- Helps us learn to articulate what we were exploring or better explain our ideas

Introducing your work and receiving feedback:

- Explain your rationale for the project, be brief
- The more you talk, the less time there is for feedback
- The group will use your rationale as a starting point to discuss your work – set the stage for what you'd like to hear about
- Don't take anything personally or be defensive – you don't have to justify your work – everyone is happy you are sharing your work
- Take notes so you remember what people say
- Listen and then ask questions if you don't understand the point someone is making
- Thank people for their insights
- Not all the suggestions you'll receive will be useful (and may be directly at odds!), use the critique to help you address the issues that were identified

Giving a good critique:

- Make the comments about the work, not the designer – use “I” statements and not “you”
- Base responses on the rationale (point of view) given by the designer – be thoughtful
- “Sandwich” your comments:
 - Start by describing an aspect you like about the piece – be specific: focus on why (have a reason – remember we are building our ability to describe our ideas)
 - Constructive criticism: explain why you think some aspect of the design isn't working or offer suggestions on how to improve that aspect, explain why you have the response you do – you may have questions for the artist to answer
 - End with a second positive acknowledgment of the work – genuine, accurate observation, again based on why
- Remember there is no right and wrong in design: explain and listen thoughtfully so everyone can grow as designers

SAQA PA Critique Guidelines:

- Each artist has a total of 15 minutes to present and have their work(s) discussed
- The artist will share the image(s) of the piece and explain the rationale or context for the discussion
- People on the call will raise their hands and be recognized by the moderator
- When called on, unmute yourself and provide your “sandwich” of comments
- State your ideas as clearly and succinctly as possible so there is time for others to share their views

Mute yourself when you are finished talking.